GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5680
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
SALE OF BRANDED FERTILIZERS
Kumar Dr. Virendra

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether inferior quality fertilizers are being sold with brand names in the markets of various States;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against the persons/companies involved in such activities, State/UT-wise;

(c) Whether the Government proposes to provide superior quality of fertilizers in various States, and

(d) If so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) & (b) : Specifications of various fertilizers are prescribed in the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 Samples of fertilizers are drawn periodically by fertilizer inspectors of State Governments to check their quality as per the parameters prescribed in the said Order. In case of imported fertilizers, the fertilizer inspectors of the Central Government draw samples from ships/containers. State-wise details of number of sample analyzed and found not in conformity with the parameters laid down in the said Order during the years 2010-11. 2011-12. 2012-13 and 2013-14 are at Annexure-I, II, III, IV respectively.

Details of follow -up action taken by State Governments in respect of samples found not in conformity with the quality parameters during the years 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 are at Annexure-V, VI, VII, VIII respectively.

(c) & (d): Government takes following steps in this regard:-

(i) Penal provisions under section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 which include both fine and imprisonment from 3 months to 7 years are in force.

(ii) The quality of the fertilizer manufactured /imported and marketed in India is covered under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985. This Order prohibits the manufacture /import for sale, sell, offer for sale, stock or exhibit for sale or distribute any fertilizer which is not of prescribed standard.

(iii) The State Governments have been empowered to take foilow up action against sale of non-standard fertilizers. All the offences committed under FCO are punishable by three months to seven years imprisonment and fine.

(iv) State Governments have been advised from ``time to time` by the Department of Fertilizers to keep a strict vigil so that adulteration of fertilizers should not take place.

(v) Department of Fertilizers have also, from time to time, sensitize the concerned State Government for gearing up the enforcement agencies under their jurisdiction for taking all preventive /punitive measures for ensuring that no adulteration of subsidized fertilizer should take place.